



# Member's Exchange

American Medallist Sculpture Association, 56 N. Plank Rd., Suite 1-685, Newburgh, NY 12550

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## President's Message

By Ann Shaper Pollack

As I write this message, fall has finally arrived and with the changing of the seasons, our programs and our current and future exhibitions are falling into place.

I am happy to report that AMSA had a most successful exhibition of medallist art at the Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Center in Whippany, N.J., from Sept. 14 to Oct. 10. All who attended the opening reception Sept. 14 spend a most enjoyable afternoon viewing the medals of the 27 participants.

Invited guests learned that contemporary art medals are not always round, but vary with great inventiveness of shape and subject. Some medals were free form standing pieces while others were abstract or highly representational. Most medals were cast in bronze, but terra cotta, mixed media, pewter, and porcelain made one aware of the quality and diversity of materials within the field of medallist art and the versatility of our members.

I'd like to thank all members who assisted with this exhibition. Special thanks to Jeanne Schonwaller who sponsored us at the community center and to Jackie Lorieo, our exhibition chair, who organized and set up the show.

Our joint AMSA/BAMS 15th anniversary exhibition will open with a gala reception Nov. 8 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the American Numismatic Society, Broadway at 155th St., in New York City. This exhibition will run from Nov. 8 to Jan. 4 and will provide all a rare opportunity to see contemporary work by members of both societies. It will feature many medals never seen on public display before. This joint exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated catalog produced especially for this event.

AMSA's first meeting of the year was held Sept. 20 at the Pen and Brush, Inc., in New York City. Barry Johnston, one of America's finest figurative sculptors, was our speaker. Those who attended watched Mr. Johnston model a bas relief, improvise.

Johnston and the audience explored the ways of creating a work of art. He said that by freeing your mind of everything, one's imagination is unleashed and the mysteries of the subconscious allow one to create forms, defined by qualities of light, anatomy, and abstract design. You can create rhythm in your work based on your internal experience. Johnston discussed the underlying formulas to connect shapes, and the ways to add layers of clay for stability and majesty. This was a most interesting demonstration by one of our own AMSA members.

Lastly, it is my hope that we can take steps to reactivate AMSA's medals program. I believe that a strong medals program can help to support and promote the art of the medal.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next meeting, Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Pen and Brush Club, 16 E. 10th St., New York City.



Barry Johnston

### Noble to speak at Nov. 15 AMSA meeting

Joseph Veach Noble will present a slide lecture at the Nov. 15 AMSA meeting at the Pen and Brush, 16 E. 10th St., New York City.

Noble is an arts administrator with positions at several museums, including Director Emeritus of the Museum of the City of New York and former Vice-Director for Administration of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition, he is a ceramic archaeologist and a producer of documentaries.

Noble's topic is 'A Century of America on Medals' ranging from the Chicago World's Fair 1893 to contemporary medals.

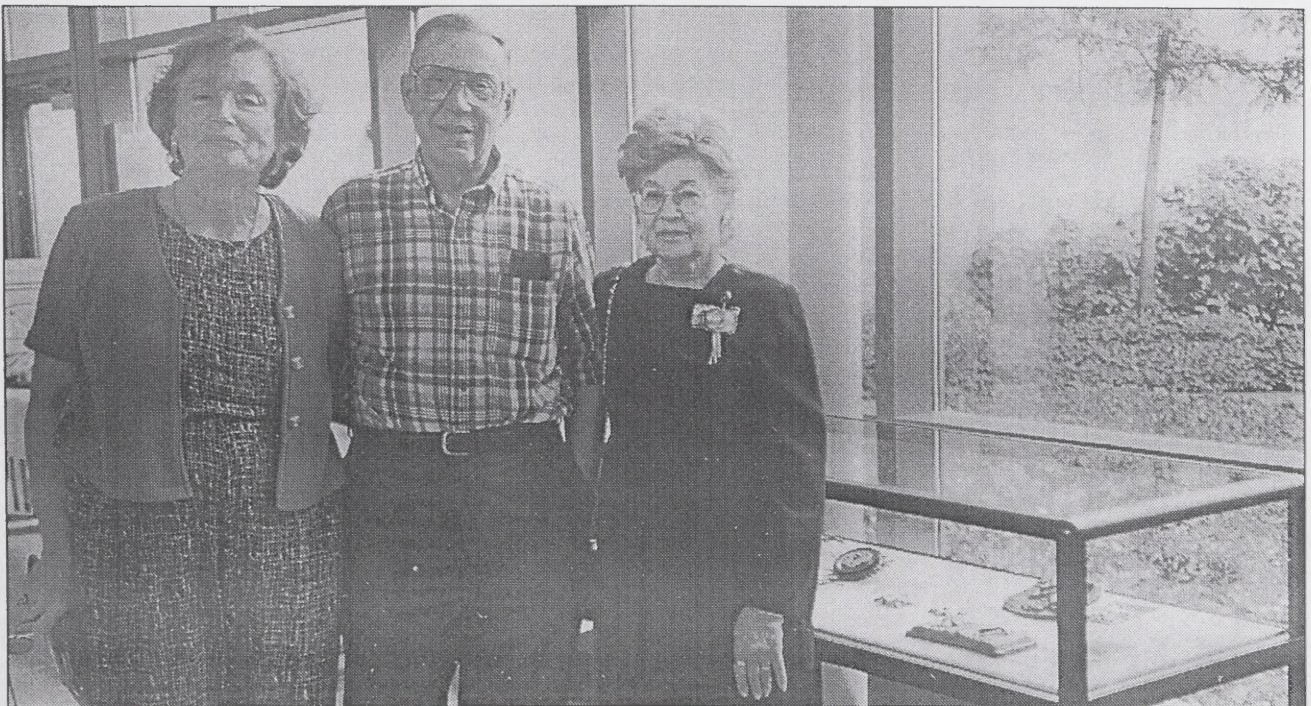


# More from the Aidekman show



*Above: Viewers at the gallery opening.*

*Below: Mrs. Wertheim, Mr. Pollack, and Mrs. Schonwalter take some time out for the camera.*





# ANS announces medallic art exhibits

This fall, the American Numismatic Society will stage a multifaceted celebration of the art and history of medals at its Audubon Terrace headquarters.

Two important exhibits will open in the coin museum's East Exhibit hall on Nov. 8, remaining open to the public through Jan. 4, 1998.

The first is a retrospective of the medallic work of Gilroy Roberts, featuring his work as Chief Engraver of the United States Mint. Included are his design of the Kennedy half-dollar, as well as art medals, such as his celebrated series of depictions of American birds.

Also beginning on Nov. 8 is an exhibit of work by members of AMSA and the British Art Medal Society (BAMS). Their joint show in New York this fall allows a comparison of the achievements in medallic art in America and England over the past 15 years.

The symposium, which began Nov. 8, featured scholars who explored aspects of the American medal, ranging from their use by American Indian Chiefs as signs of alliance with colonial powers to the "medallic mythology" of sculpture Paul Manship, best known for his monumental figures at Rockefeller Center. All sessions were chaired by Dr. Alan M. Stahl.

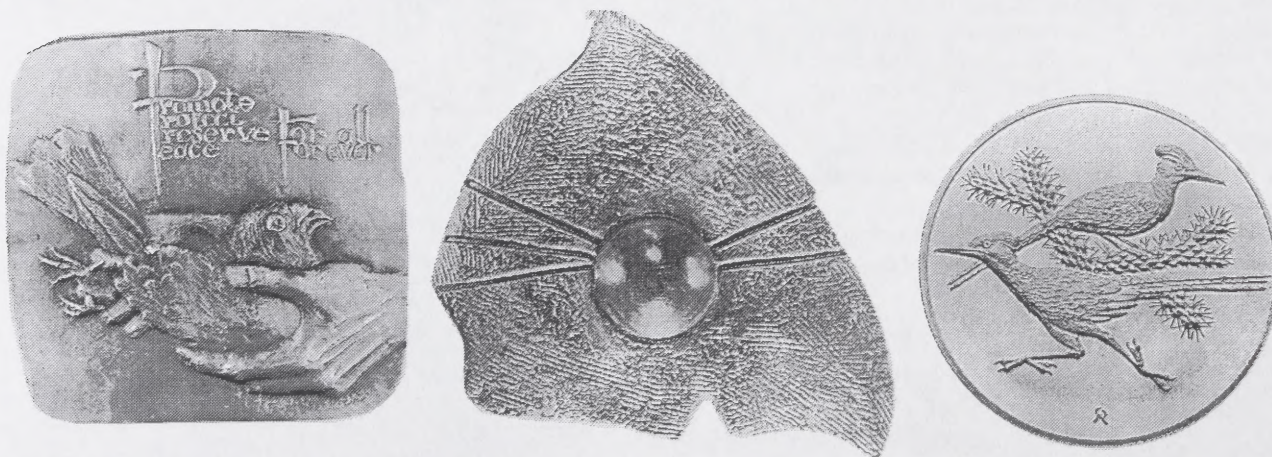
The exhibits opened that afternoon at 4:30, hosted by Stanley Merves of the Gilroy Roberts Trust, AMSA President Ann Pollack, and Philip Attwood of BAMS.

The workshop Nov. 9 featured demonstrations of the techniques of die engraving and medal striking by Virginia Jansen, an American artist who trained at the Rome mint school, and Ron Landis of the Gallery Mint Museum, who has recovered historical techniques of medal making. In addition the film *The Medal Maker*, made by the ANS in 1929, was shown.

These temporary exhibits of medallic art will be on display along with the Society's permanent displays: "The World of Coins," which traces the history of coinage from ancient times to the present, and "American Numismatic Design, 1892-1922," which focuses on the coins, medals and decorations of America's golden age.

All exhibits are located at the Society's headquarters in the Audubon Terrace museum complex at Broadway and 155th St. in Manhattan.

Exhibits are open to the public on Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Further information can be obtained at (212) 234-3130.



Several medallic works of art – including "Universal Dream," left, by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman; "Bloom Pod," center, by Ron Dutton; and "Roadrunner," right, by Gilroy Roberts – will be on display at the American Numismatic Society in New York City from Nov. 8 through Jan. 4.



# AMSA regional chair established in Penn.

Jeanne Stevens-Sollman has been appointed a regional chair for central Pennsylvania. She will investigate the possibility of organizing regional and national exhibitins, meetings, activities, and workshops which will enable AMSA to expand and develop.

This regional group will be under the guidance of the AMSA board and will provide local members

who reside far from New York City and major art centers an opportunity to promote the art of the medal in their respective region.

Stevens-Sollman will present details of all proposed activities for approval of the AMSA board before any final arrangement or contracts can be signed and before AMSA will sponsor or endorse any activity.

## Submissions sought for newsletter

As you can see, this edition of the newsletter is rather sparse on news and/or write-ups on past and upcoming events.

To that end, we would like to poll the readership for help in this area. If you've attended an interesting lecture on medallic sculpture, write about it. If you were chairperson for the event, it would seem to be your responsibility to report on it.

If you have a tip or trick to pass along to other members, send that in.

If you have questions about the art form, ask. Per-

haps someone in the membership can answer them or knows someone who can. It can't hurt to ask.

Are you looking for materials or tools that you can't obtain in your area? Or for that matter, do you have materials or tools you no longer use and would like to get rid of? After all, this is *Member's Exchange*, let's take that title literally.

Remember, this is your newsletter and it can only be as good as you make it.

One final favor is asked by the editorial group: Please type your submissions. Thanks.

## Members, please note:

Due to Newburgh, N.Y., adopting a 911 system, AMSA's mailing address has changed to:

56 North Plank Road  
Suite 1-685  
Newburgh, NY 12550.

## Calendar

**November 8-January 4:** BAMS-AMSA show — American Numismatic Society, New York City.

**November 15:** AMSA Board Meeting, Pen & Brush, Club, 16 E. 10th St., New York City, noon. General AMSA Meeting follows at 2 p.m.

**December 6:** AMSA Board Meeting, American Numismatic Society Museum Building, New York City.

**Winter 1998:** Judging for FIDEM '98.

**January 24:** AMSA Board Meeting, ANS Museum Building.

**March 21:** AMSA Board Meeting, Pen & Brush, noon. General AMSA Meeting follows at 2 p.m.

**April 25:** AMSA Board Meeting, ANS Museum Building.

**May 16:** AMSA Board Meeting, Pen & Brush, noon. General AMSA Meeting follows at 2 p.m.

**October 1998:** FIDEM XXVI, The Hague, The Netherlands.

## Member's Exchange

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